

From: Marc Hughes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/27/01 4:31pm
Subject: Proposed Settlement Problems

Hello,

I am an administrator of several commercial websites which will remain unnamed since I send this email on my own behalf and not necessarily on the behalf of my company. I am no legal expert, so I will keep my comments brief and simply try to convey the following points; I believe I have been hurt by the microsoft monopoly. I do not believe that the current penalties go far enough to restrict the microsoft monopoly. And lastly, I believe that if the proposed settlement is accepted, little, if any, changes will likely actually occur.

On our web servers, we use the linux operating system. Up until recently I ran linux on my workstation as well for it is far easier to administer a linux web server with a linux workstation. I have recently had to document many of the procedures using Microsoft Word, and this has caused me to install Windows on my workstation. This is due to the fact that there are no good alternatives that can read and write the Word .doc files. This is because it is kept secret from the general population. I would like to see this, as well as all their other file formats and network protocols documented fully for anyone to use. Currently, under the current proposal, only for-profit organizations would have access to this information. This seems irrelevant since the greatest threat to Microsoft is open source, not for-profit organizations.

Thank You for your time,

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